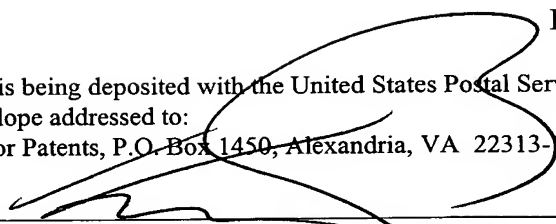




PATENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date of Signature and Deposit: August 14, 2003,


Keith M. Baxter, Attorney of Record

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/628,300
Applicant(s): Joseph G. Vazach, *et. al.*
Filed: July 28, 2003
Title: In-Line Passive Barrier for Intrinsically Safe Communication Network
TC/A.U.: --
Examiner: --
Docket No.: 03AB043

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action in the above referenced case, please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.